

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 195691

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195691

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 11380 ACTION SECSTAE INFO BELGRADE
BERLIN USBERLIN BONN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST GENEVA LISBON
LONDON MUNICH NATO PARIS PRAGUE ROME SOFIA MBFR VIENNA
WARSAW CINCEUR 12 AUG

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11380

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON PORTUGAL

REF: MOSCOW 11220

1. SUMMARY. THOUGH SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF PORTUGAL REMAINS
RESTRAINED AND CAUTIOUS, MOSCOW'S CONCERN OVER THE TREND OF
EVENTS THERE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT. RELYING
PRIMARILY ON QUOTES FROM FOREIGN AND PORTUGUESE PRESS AND
SELECTIVE EDITING OF PCP STATEMENTS, MOSCOW SEEMS TO BE URGING
THE AFM AND THE PCP TO BROADEN THEIR POWER BASE BEFORE THEY
TOPPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SOVIET PRESS HAS PRODUCED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF INDEPENDENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 195691

COMMENTARY ON EVENTS IN PORTUGAL (THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN LESS
HESITANT ON ATTACKING ALLEGED WESTERN INTERFERENCE IN
PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS--SEE PARA FIVE BELOW). USING SELECTED
QUOTES FROM THE PORTUGUESE PRESS AND PCP STATEMENTS, IT HAS

SHARPLY ATTACKED THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT, EVEN ALLOWING ITSELF TO MAKE THE INDEPENDENT COMMENT (PRAVDA AUGUST 10 WEEKLY REVIEW) THAT THE DOCUMENT IS CONNECTED WITH "EFFORTS BY CERTAIN CIRCLES TO INTERFERE WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, INCREASE UNCERTAINTY IN THE COUNTRY, AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR A TAKE-OVER BY REACTIONARY FORCES".

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, PRAVDA' SOLE INDEPENDENT COMMENT HAS BEEN THAT ITS FORMATION IS "AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD OVERCOMING A DIFFICULT STEP FOR THE REVOLUTION". THOUGH SELECTIVE EDITING AND PUBLICATION OF PCP STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, IT HAS MADE ITS OWN LINE CLEAR. WHILE THE LINE DOES NOT APPEAR TO DIFFER MARKEDLY FROM THAT OF THE PCP, IT SEEMS TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR THE PCP-- AND THE AFM--TO BROADEN ITS POWER BASE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. PRAVDA ON AUGUST 11 EVEN CALLED FOR PARTICIPATION BY "REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL ORIENTATIONS" IN AN EFFORT TO DEFEAT THE FORCES OF COUNTERREVOLUTION. PRAVDA HAS ALSO REPLAYED CUNHAL AND PCP STATEMENTS ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN SUCH A WAY THAT, WHILE WELCOMING FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THEY HAVE GIVEN NEARLY EQUAL EMPHASIS TO PCP STATEMENT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT BY ITSELF DOES NOT SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS. THEY ALSO UNDERLINE THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EXCLUDE CHANGES AND RESTRUCTURING IN ORDER TO BROADEN THE "POLITICAL-SOCIAL BASE" OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. TO ENSURE THAT THERE CAN BE NO MINUNDERSTANDING ON HOW "BROAD" THIS BASE CAN BE, HOWEVER, PRAVDA HAS ALSO REPLAYED PCP WARNINGS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO VIEW THINGS FROM A "REVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE" AND NOT ENDANGER REVOLUTIONARY GAINS SO FAR ACHIEVED.

4. THE SOVIET PRESS HAS BEEN LESS CAUTIOUS IN CASTIGATING THE WEST FOR ITS ALLEGED ROLE IN PORTUGAL. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW AUGUST 10 AGAIN PICKED UP THE LINE (REFTEL) THAT EC REFUSAL TO AID PORTUGAL UNTIL IT MOVED BACK ONTO THE PATH OF PLURALIST DEMOCRACY, AND WEST EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCTATIC AID TO THE PSP, CONSTITUTE VIOLATIONS OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND ITS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 195691

PROHIBITION OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES. PRAVDA AUGUST 11 CARRIED A SHORT ITEM ON A LETTER FROM PHILIP AGEE PUBLISHED IN DAILY WORLD ALLEGING CIA ACTIVITY IN PORTUGAL AND EFFORTS BY U.S. MILITARY THERE TO SPLIT THE AFM. AND IZVESTIYA ON AUGUST 9 WARNED AGAINST UNDEEFINED "ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE "TO PORTUGUESE REACTIONARY FORCES. STOESSEL UNQUOTE SISCO

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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